



NRC NEWS

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NRC RENEWS LICENSES FOR DRESDEN AND QUAD CITIES NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS FOR AN ADDITIONAL 20 YEARS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has renewed the operating licenses of the Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Units 2 and 3, and the Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station, Units 1 and 2, in Illinois for an additional 20 years.

The Dresden plant is near Morris, and the Quad Cities plant is near Moline. Both are operated by the Exelon Generation Co. Exelon submitted its license renewal applications for both plants on Jan. 3, 2003. With the renewals, the license for Dresden Unit 2 is extended to Dec. 22, 2029, and the license for Dresden Unit 3 is extended to Jan. 12, 2031. The licenses for both units of Quad Cities are extended to Dec. 14, 2032.

The NRC's environmental reviews are described in site-specific supplements to the NRC's "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Power Plants" (NUREG-1437, Supplements 16 and 17). In the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statements, issued in June, the NRC concluded there were no environmental impacts that would preclude renewal of the licenses for environmental reasons. Two public meetings to discuss the environmental review were held near the plants on April 8 and 10, 2003.

The NRC staff completed a careful and thorough review and issued the results in July in its "Safety Evaluation Report Related to the License Renewal of the Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Units 2 and 3, and the Quad Cities Nuclear Power Station, Units 1 and 2." The staff concluded that there were no safety concerns that would preclude license renewal, because the licensee had demonstrated the capability to manage the effects of plant aging. In addition, NRC conducted inspections of the plants to verify information submitted by the licensee. The reports relating to these renewals are available on the NRC Web site at this address:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/dresden-quad.html> .

On Sept. 16, the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards – an independent body of technical experts which advises the Commission – issued its recommendation that the operating licenses for Dresden and Quad Cities be renewed. That recommendation is contained in "Report on the Safety Aspects of the License Renewal Application for the Dresden 2 and 3 and Quad Cities 1 and 2 Nuclear Power Stations." This document is available on the NRC Web site at this address:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/acrs/letters/2004/> .

The Dresden and Quad Cities license renewals bring the total number of renewals to 30 reactor units. A complete listing of renewal applications can be found on the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications.html> .

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